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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/761,346 | 01/22/2004 | Shigeyuki Soga | Q79513 | 3255 |

23373 7590 11/30/2005
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EXAMINER

HUSAR, STEPHEN F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/761,346 | SOGA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Stephen F. Husar | 2875 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/22/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 2,5, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claim 2 is indefinite in that it is unclear what "sheet" constitutes "said sheet" in line 3 of claim 2. Note that claim 1 recites that the "partition member" is formed of a "cuttable sheet" and claim 2 which depends on claim 1 recites that the "partition member" comprises "a sheet and a rigid plate for supporting...said sheet". Clarification is required. Similarly, claim 5 is indefinite in that it is unclear what constitutes "said sheet" in line of claim 5. Note that claim 4 recites that the partition member is formed of a "flexible sheet" and claim 5 which depends from claim 4 recites that the "partition member" comprises "a sheet and a rigid plate for supporting...said sheet". Clarification is required. Finally, claim 20 is indefinite for the same reasons as noted in claims 2 and 5. However in claim 20, which depends from claim

19, there are "a cuttable sheet and a flexible sheet" and "a sheet" all of which may serve as antecedence for "said sheet" (claim 20, line 3). Claim 2,5, and 20 also recite the limitation "the circumferential portion" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is unclear whether the opening portion of the partition member is being referred to or to the circumferential portion of whatever "said sheet" is finally determined to be.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2,4,5,18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by FUKAI (6332370). Fukai shows in Fig.1: a rigid partition member "14A" having a cuttable opening with a flexible sheet "14B" formed in the opening for partitioning the outer space of the vehicle light fixture "2" in to a front space and a rear space with the front space

“12A” simulating the vehicle outside environment and the rear space “12B”
simulating the vehicle inside environment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the
basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*,
383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a
background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are
summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering
patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes
that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the
time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the

contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 3,6, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FUKAI (6332370). These claims set forth that the partition member comprises a member that is opaque to visible and near infrared radiation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make Fukai's partition wall opaque to visible and near infrared radiation to prevent Fukai's incandescent lamps "28" from affecting and influencing the space "12B" on the other side of Fukai's partition wall and thus defeat the purpose of having the partition wall in the first place.

Allowable Subject Matter


10. Claims 7-17 are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen F. Husar whose

telephone number is 571-272-2371. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W and F from 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Stephen F. Husar
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2875

SFH